

**Putnam County/Municipal Governments LOGIC Meeting**  
July 28, 2004  
Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER** – Palatka Mayor Karl N. Flagg

**INVOCATION** – Adam Mengle, Palatka Planning Director

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Welaka Police Chief Charlie Piwowarski

**INTRODUCTIONS** – Palatka Mayor Karl N. Flagg

Present:

**City of Palatka:** Karl N. Flagg, George Sanders, James Norwood, Allen R. Bush, Betsy J. Driggers, Adam Mengel, Rodney Harper, Cathy Butler

**Putnam County BOCC:** Rick Leary, Bob Merton, Yvonne Parrish, Patrick Kennedy

**Putnam County School Board:** Terry McCool

**Interlachen:** John R. Lyles & Pam Wilburn

**Crescent City:** Joe Smith

**Pomona Park:** Joe Lieb, D'Nel Flateau

**Welaka:** Gordon Sands, Ed Feagle, Charlie Piwowarski

**Palatka Housing Authority:** John Nelson

**Palatka Gas Authority:** Jud Neufeld

**Putnam County Chamber of Commerce:** Dana Jones

**Press:** Marcia Lane, St. Augustine Record & Putnam Pennysaver

**CITY OF PALATKA:**

9-11 Activities: Rick Leary, County Administrator, reported that the County will coordinate memorial activities for Saturday, Sept. 11 at the Riverfront, as they have done every year. If other entities would like to participate, please contact Yvonne Parrish at 326-2799 to get on the agenda. Ms. Driggers noted the County-wide Day of Prayer activities are scheduled for Monday, Sept. 13; it is set for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each September at noon. Mayor Flagg noted that a proclamation will be circulated to all cities and Putnam County for signatures. Per Mr. McCool, each school will make individual plans, if any.

Political Signs: Adam Mengel, Planning Director, said the City of Palatka had recently revised its political sign ordinance to allow posting of signs 45 days prior to the election, instead of 30, in order to bring it more in line with Putnam County's ordinance. This was done as a 'quick fix' to address this year's election, which is very crowded, in order to clear up confusion between city and county boundaries. The length of time signs are allowed up creates problems; the longer they are allowed up, the more problems they create. Forty-five days prior to a primary is too long. He is working on a 'time lapse' photo montage of several signs showing what they look like from week to week, and will

have that ready after these elections have passed. They create code enforcement problems and look worse with each passing day. Some cities dictate the number of days a particular sign can be up (i.e. Deland states any one sign can only be erected for a total of 127 days) and most give anywhere from 7 – 10 days for removal. He passed out some information he had garnered from other counties/municipalities on how they handle their political signs. Also, he said Duval County has had good results by requiring all candidates to sign a “pledge” to follow political sign rules. He understands the County is sending out notices to candidates that they will be picking up all signs found on the r/w, and advising them where they can be retrieved. The City will send out a similar letter. Mr. Leary said Don Hersey, Supervisor of Elections, provides information to all candidates on political signs rules and regulations; it is part of their candidate package that they are issued the first day they visit his office, and they sign a form stating they have received it. Mayor Flagg called for a countywide workshop on political signs so that the entire county would be consistent.

Commissioner Norwood asked if anyone had an ordinance prohibiting or outlawing pit bull dogs within their corporate limits, as some areas have done. This is becoming an issue for some homeowners. Commissioner Sanders noted that the streets are looking much better due to the area clean-up/code enforcement blitz effort.

#### **CITY OF WELAKA:**

CR 309: Mayor Gordon Sands stated that the County’s plans for repaving CR 309 apparently does not call for aprons; he asked about the SCRAP money and Better Place Funds that Putnam County received, stating they are very upset that this road is not getting the attention it deserves. On July 5 there was a traffic fatality on that road, the 3<sup>rd</sup> one this year, which can be directly attributed to its condition. He asked Putnam County to revisit the matter of r/w easements on CR309. Police Chief Charlie Piwowarski handed out photos depicting the recent accident, location of accident, and roadway conditions, and there was discussion over the status of whether or not the county is liable because of the easement situation. Mayor Sands said he intends to appear before the County Transportation Committee about this, and wants to make their stand on the issue very clear. Mr. Leary said he and Mayor Sands have discussed this, and he has also discussed this with Mr. Merton, County Public Works director.

Mr. Bob Merton, Putnam Co. Public Works Director, responded with charts and drawings showing the planned repavement of CR309, saying that money is a large factor; this is a long road. As to contributing factors, excessive speed is surely a factor, as the posted speed limit on this stretch of road is 40 mph, as are large drop-offs at the shoulders. Initially the project was 14 miles, through Welaka & Georgetown, but they don’t have near the funds to cover it. Last week bids on this project came in at 3 times the original cost estimates, which are 3 years old. They asked FDOT to up their contribution. Since the cost of resurfacing goes up south of the Dunns Creek Bridge, they plan to ‘piggy-back’ this resurfacing project onto the paving project at Dunns Creek, in order to keep the cost down. If they cannot resurface the entire road, they will start at Hwy 17 and go as far as Welaka; the next portion they will address will be Welaka to Fruitland; and so on. Mrs. D’Nel Flateau, Pomona Park Clerk, said they have noted that

the County garbage trucks contribute a lot of damage to the roads and shoulders by tearing up the asphalt because they keep pulling off the road just slightly when picking up garbage, apparently to let traffic pass. They don't pull far enough over to let traffic pass, so it's best if they don't pull off the road at all. Per the question, Mr. Merton said there are two traffic counters in Welaka; he will get the data from both counters to Chief Piwowarski. Mayor Flagg noted a public meeting on this issue will take place next week.

**CRESCENT CITY:** Mr. Joe Smith, City Manager, inquired if anyone was interested in pooling surplus property together for a county-wide sale, which would attract more buyers than if only Crescent City had a sale. Mr. Allen Bush, Palatka City Manager, said Palatka sends a lot of its surplus equipment to auctions held by private entities in Starke and Green Cove Springs; they come pick up the equipment and just send you a check after they deduct their fees. Palatka also puts some items on the GovDeals website, which is designed for surplus item disposal. It is similar to e-bay; Gov Deals gets a percentage of the selling price in exchange for the use of their website. What doesn't sell there, the City puts in the newspaper and takes sealed bids from the public.

As to supplies/purchases, Mr. Bush said the State is considering setting up a 'bulk ordering' system for government agencies for supplies, hardware, software, etc. At the present time the City purchases all manner of general supplies from the School Board; their warehouse is in the old Central States plant, and they offer a catalogue of items.

**INTERLACHEN:**

Mayor Lyles noted that Interlachen's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration was a huge success, with most political candidates in attendance. There are still issues with the SR 20 widening project, which is back in the courts again. They do not know when a final decision will be made.

**POMONA PARK:**

Councilman Joe Lieb said the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October, or Oct. 2, is their annual Town Yard Sale, and invited everyone to attend. Mrs. Flateau noted that Mayor Middleton sent his regrets for being unable to attend due to a doctor's appointment. Councilman Lieb noted there is some controversy over the location of the proposed entrance to the new state park, and hopes that will be resolved amicable and sensibly.

**PUTNAM COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD:**

Mr. McCool noted that school starts again on August 11, a Wednesday. Per the question, he said his daughter Michelle, a contestant in the WWE Divas contest, will be appearing on the show live from San Antonio on Monday. She is having a great time with the contest, and is grateful for the community's support.

**PALATKA HOUSING AUTHORITY:**

Mr. John Nelson, the new Executive Director, said they are looking at property management strategies, such as tightening up on their leases, and are working diligently on enhancing their apartments' 'curb appeal.' He noted he was getting some good ideas from this meeting, and appreciated the opportunity to attend.

**PALATKA GAS AUTHORITY:**

Mr. Jud Neufeld, Chairman of the Board, spoke about their new warehouse and the FP&L contamination clean up of their property. FP&L had to excavate 32' deeper at the site than anticipated, taking their projected cost from \$2 million to over \$3 million for the clean up. This has of course pushed back the time frame on the construction of their new offices.

**PUTNAM COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:**

Dana Jones, Chamber representative, spoke about preparing for the Superbowl 2005 festivities. She passed out information on the Official Superbowl Bass Tournament, sponsored by G-P Corp., for the benefit of the Chamber, on February 5, 2005, the day prior to the Superbowl.

**NEXT MEETING:** Set to be held at the Interlachen City Hall on Wednesday, October 27, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. Mrs. Harriet Cannon, Interlachen Historical Society President, will have the museum open downstairs in the Town Hall that day.

**ADJOURN FOR LUNCH** – 12:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Betsy J. Driggers, City Clerk, City of Palatka.  
For changes or corrections, contact Betsy Driggers at 386-329-0100 or via e-mail at [betsy@mail.gbso.net](mailto:betsy@mail.gbso.net).